



MORTON ARBORETUM

JOY MORTON · FOUNDER

BULLETIN OF POPULAR INFORMATION

LISLE, ILLINOIS

APPRAISING SOME OF THE LESSER KNOWN FLOWERING CRABAPPLES

In contrast to the generally poor spring floral displays of many woody plants, the aftermath of a winter of unusual severity, several groups notably Flowering Crabapples and Lilacs outdid themselves in profusion and excellence of bloom. This permitted for the first time an appraisal of some of the newer and lesser known varieties which had never before flowered well at the Arboretum. By May seventh the *Malus* collection was in good bloom, opening a season which continued for over two weeks.

After critically surveying the less familiar forms in the collection, making particular note of their desirable features, their shortcomings and similarities to other Crabapples, it becomes quite apparent that far too many varieties are being grown today. This emphasizes the necessity of eliminating the unworthy forms from cultivation and the importance of more rigid screening of new introductions.

Almost without exception the varieties enumerated fall within the "small tree" class whose height limit does not exceed twenty-five feet. While certain variations in habit of growth have been indicated, the majority are of mounded outline.

*Malus "Amisk"** (*pumila Niedzwetzkyana x baccata*)—Introduced in 1930 by Miss I. Preston, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, Ontario. Blooming period—early to midseason; Flowers deep rose in bud opening soft rose pink; Alternate bearer**; Fruit—small, red, conical; Habit widespreading with rounded top.

Floriferous, but the flowers fade quickly in bright sun.

*Malus "Arrow"** (*pumila Niedzwetzkyana x baccata*)—Introduced in 1930 by Miss I. Preston. Blooming period—Midseason-late; Flowers very dark purplish red in bud, opening purplish red; Annual bearer***; Foliage bronzy; Fruit small oxblood red, persistent; Habit of growth mounded with widespreading branches.

Flowers fade to a muddy pink color.

*Malus "Cowichan"** (*pumila Niedzwetzkyana*—open pollinated)—Introduced in 1930 by Miss I. Preston. Blooming period—early; Flowers light pink, buds darker; Annual bearer; Foliage bronzy green changing to brilliant orange red in the fall; Fruit purplish red; Habit rounded; Height 10-12 ft.

The lightest colored of the Rosybloom Hybrids. Not very floriferous here.

*Malus "Erie"** (*pumila Niedzwetzkyana* x *baccata*)—Introduced in 1930 by Miss I. Preston. Blooming period—midseason; Flowers medium pink in bud opening lighter pink; Alternate bearer; Foliage—bronzey when young changing to green; Fruit small, red; Habit of growth rounded.

Very floriferous.

Malus gloriosa (x *Scheideckeri* x *pumila Niedzwetzkyana*)—Introduced by Lemoine prior to 1930. Imported to the U.S. by the Arnold Arboretum in 1936. Blooming period midseason; Flowers purplish red; Foliage bronzey; Fruit small, bright red; Habit round headed.

Malus ioensis Red Seedling No. 1 (No. 1396-41)—A selection of Mr. A. F. den Boer, Crabapple Specialist of Des Moines, Iowa. Blooming period—late; Flowers clear deep pink of yellowish tone, buds only slightly darker than flowers; Foliage of bronzey cast; Habit of growth semi-erect, rounded.

A striking pink with no evidence of blue to cloud its clear coloring. Very promising.

Malus "Jay Darling"—Parentage uncertain, possibly a hybrid of *baccata* x *pumila Niedzwetzkyana* or another x *purpurea* clon. The varietal name honors Jay Darling, cartoonist, conservationist and nature lover. Blooming period—midseason; Flowers deep purplish red in bud opening lighter. Similar in effect to *Malus adstringens*; Foliage—new growth reddish bronze, mature leaves dark green with purplish veins; Fruit red skinned with red flesh, persistent; Habit of growth rounded.

Flowers showy, but fade quickly.

*Malus "Kingsmere"** (*Sieboldii* x *pumila Niedzwetzkyana*)—Introduced in 1930 by Miss I. Preston. Blooming period—midseason; Flowers carmine in bud fading to dull pink; Annual bearer; Foliage—new growth bronzey; Fruit small, very dark purplish red; Habit rounded.

Usually floriferous, but did not flower abundantly this year.

Malus "Kola" (x *Soulardii* clon)—Introduced in 1922 by Prof. N. E. Hansen of the South Dakota Agricultural Experimental Station, Brookings, S. D. Blooming period—midseason; Flowers large, clear pink in bud opening lighter, very fragrant, similar to *M. ioensis* in color effect; Foliage large, bright green; Habit rounded.

A glorified "*ioensis*", showy and floriferous.

*Malus "Makamik"**—

No bloom this year on this variety which is considered by many the best of the Rosybloom Crabs. Late flowering with dark rosy red blooms.

Malus "Montreal Beauty"—Originated in Quebec prior to 1833. Blooming period—early-midseason; Flowers soft pink in bud opening white, small but in dense clusters; Fruit, conical in shape, red; Habit round headed.

Small flowered, but floriferous.

*Malus "Okanagan"** (*pumila Niedzwetzkyana* x *baccata*)—Introduced in 1930 by Miss I. Preston. Blooming period—early-midseason; Flowers deep purplish rose in bud opening deep pink. Foliage—new growth bronzey; Fruit large, red fleshed, edible; Habit rounded.

Valued more for fruit than flowers.

Malus "Prince Georges" (a supposed hybrid of *ioensis plena* and *angustifolia*)—Grown by the Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction of the U.S.D.A. from seed collected in the Arnold Arboretum about 1919. Scions of the resultant hybrid seedling were later sent back to the Arnold Arboretum in 1930. Blooming period—very late; Flowers large, very double on long pedicels. Soft pink, fragrant; Foliage lance shaped, medium green, turning red orange in fall; Habit compact, mounded, the spread of the plant exceeding its height.

Especially desirable because of its late, freely produced flowers.

Malus "Redflesb" (*x Soulardii* clon—*ioensis x pumila Niedzwetzkyana*)—Introduced in 1928 by Prof. N. E. Hansen. Blooming period—early-midseason; Flowers carmine in bud changing to light pink, very fragrant; Foliage bronzy green when first unfolding; Fruit large, bright red with red flesh; Habit rounded.

A dual purpose Crab rated highly for both flowers and fruit.

Malus "Red Silver" (*x adstringens* clon—*baccata x pumila Niedzwetzkyana*)—Introduced in 1928 by Carl A. Hansen. Blooming period—midseason; Flowers very dark maroon red in bud opening deep red, borne in dense clusters; Foliage distinctly reddish bronze with silvery undersurfaces; Fruit purplish red; Habit round headed.

Showy and very floriferous. The foliage remains colorful throughout the growing season.

Malus "Red Tip" (*x Soulardii* clon)—Introduced by Hansen, 1919. Blooming period—midseason; Flowers pink in bud opening lighter pink of salmon cast; Foliage red tipped when opening, bronzy later and red orange in the fall; Habit rounded.

Very floriferous.

*Malus "Simcoe"** (*x adstringens* clon—*baccata x pumila Niedzwetzkyana*)—A Preston cross made in 1920 and named ten years later. Blooming period—early-midseason; Flowers large, cup shaped of subdued rose pink; Alternate bearing; Foliage rather coarse, bronzy; Fruit bright red, colors early; Habit rounded.

Very lovely in blossom.

Malus "Van Eseltine" (*x arnoldiana x spectabilis*)—An introduction of the New York State Experimental Station (1938). The cross was made in 1930 by the man for whom it was named. Blooming period—midseason; Flowers semidouble, carmine pink in bud opening lighter.

One of the most attractive of the newer crabapples.

*Malus "Wabiskaw"** (*x adstringens* clon—*pumila Niedzwetzkyana x baccata* var.)—A Preston cross made in 1920 and named in 1930. Blooming period—midseason; Flowers single to semidouble, dark rose pink in bud opening red and borne in dense clusters encircling the stems; Foliage bronzy green turning orange red in autumn; Fruit small, carmine flushed green; Habit upright; Height 25 ft.

Distinctive in habit of growth; Effective in flower and although an annual bloomer, it is not as floriferous as some of the others.

Malus "William Sim" (parentage uncertain)—Introduced in 1931 by William Sim, Cliftondale, Mass. Blooming period—midseason-late; Flowers large, pure white, very floriferous; Foliage bright green; Fruit red, long pointed; Habit low, horizontally branched. Of picturesque widespreading habit.

Made a splendid showing this year with its profuse white blossoms.

Among the other newer or lesser known crabapples in the Arboretum collection, the following either failed to flower this year or have not as yet attained blooming size: Amur, Athabasca, Babine, *baccata* "Alexis", *baccata* "Lady Ilgens", Beauty, Bedford, Cashmere, Cheales Crimson, Chilko, Crimson Brilliant, Des Moines, Dorothea, Doucin, Dr. Van Fleet, E. H. Wilson, Flame, Katherine, Lings, Mathews, Mrs. Bayard Thayer, Nipissing, Olga, Osman, Pink Giant, Piotosh, Ponass, Queen Choice, Redfield, Redford, Redman, Robin, Rondo, Rosilda, Scugog, Sissipuk, Slocan, Toshprince, Trail and Wynema.

E. L. KAMMERER

*One of the so called "Rosybloom Crabapples", a name given to a group of hybrid forms originating at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, Ontario. Individual names honor Canadian lakes.

**Flowers and fruits every other year.

***Flowers and fruits annually.



Wabiskaw Crabapple, *Malus Wabiskaw*, one of the so called "Rosybloom Crabs" noted for its dark reddish flowers and upright habit of growth.

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